

# Improving Utah's Water Quality

## Beaver River Watershed



Revised November 2012

### Watershed Description:

The Beaver River watershed encompasses approximately 320,000 acres with about 306,000 acres in Beaver County and 14,000 acres in Iron County. The watershed is encircled by the Tushar Mountains to the northeast and east, Circleville Mountains to the southeast, and the Mineral Mountains to the west.

The estimated watershed population is approximately 3,500 people and is expected to experience a 2.6 percent population growth by the year 2020. There are about 170 farms in the watershed with an average area of 495 acres. Beaver City, the county seat, is the most populated town in the watershed with an estimated population of 3,000. Other communities in the watershed include Greenville, Adamsville, and Manderfield.

### MAJOR WATERBODIES

Beaver River  
Puffer Lake  
Minersville Reservoir  
Kents Lake  
LaBaron Reservoir

### MAJOR CITIES

Beaver City  
Greenville  
Adamsville  
Manderfield

### MAJOR LAND USES

Agriculture

### LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Sediment  
Total Phosphorus  
Nitrogen Loading  
Erosion

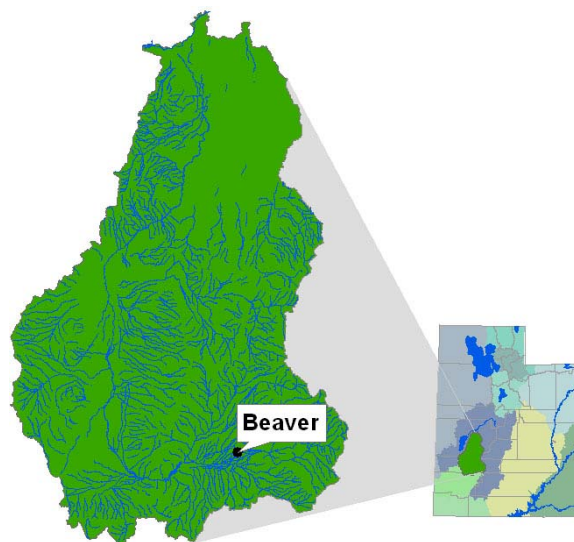
### LOCAL CONTACT:

Beaver Conservation  
District  
620 North Main Street  
PO Box 640  
Beaver, UT 84713  
Phone: (435) 438-5092



Photo courtesy of Beaver County Extension Office

Several nonpoint source water quality problems have been identified in the watershed. They include sedimentation, phosphorus and nitrogen loading, and eroding stream banks. These pollutants are causing a decrease in water quality in the Beaver River, its tributaries, and the Minersville Reservoir.



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# Beaver River Water Quality Improvement

## Project Description:

Water quality improvement projects focusing on the Beaver River began in 1993 with the acquisition of an EPA 319 Grant. Since work began in 1993, 319 funds have helped over 23 landowners in the watershed improve water quality on their operations and have also helped leverage an additional \$6.4 million dollars from other state and federal conservation programs for water quality improvement projects. In 2001, the watershed completed the development of the Beaver River Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and Watershed Restoration Action Strategy. The CRMP identifies potential water quality limitations and establishes implementation strategies focused on improving water quality. The CRMP also provides additional leverage for water quality improvement project funding.

An initial summary of water quality results indicate that although there was a decline in the average annual total phosphorus concentrations, the pollution indicator value of 0.05 mg/L is exceeded in all samples. Results from this initial evaluation imply project implementation is having a positive effect on water quality but substantial work is required to achieve desired water quality end points.



## Partners

Beaver River Soil Conservation District  
Beaver River Watershed Steering Committee  
Beaver County  
Beaver City  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
USU Cooperative Extension Service  
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
Utah Association of Conservation Districts  
Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Utah State Trust Lands Administration  
Utah Division of Parks & Recreation  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

## Related Projects

Rangeland Restoration  
Animal Waste Control Systems  
Irrigation Run-Off Improvement Projects  
Stream Bank and Riparian Restoration Projects  
Information and Education

## Funding

Total (through 2008) \$7.6 million

**For funding opportunities in the Beaver River Watershed, contact the Beaver Conservation District.**

*To learn how you can participate or lend your support to Utah community water quality projects, please contact your local conservation district or county agent.*

Produced by USU Water Quality Extension, Utah Watershed Coordinating Council, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and Utah Division of Water Quality.

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